

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1401
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH

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USEC

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.OM 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: HUGE LABOR RALLIES DENOUNCE TERRORISM: CCU
QUARREL CONTINUES

REF: ROME 4561, 4270, 3996.
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1. SUMMARY: ITALY'S THREE MAJOR LABOR CONFEDERATIONS WERE
IN PERFECT HARMONY YESTERDAY IN DENOUCING, BEFORE HUNDREDS
OF THOUSAND OF PEOPLE IN DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY, THE SAVAGE TERRORISM WHICH RESULTED IN THE KID-
NAPPING OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER, ALDO MORO.
NEVERTHELESS, CRITICISM OF THE CGIL FOR PURSUING NARROW

COMMUNIST PARTY INTERESTS IS CONTINUING, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF THE CISL, DESPITE CGIL ATTEMPTS TO MOLLIFY ITS CRITICS. SEPARATE MEETINGS OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS, AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEVEL, FOUND THE CISL UNUSUALLY UNITED IN DENOUNCING COMMUNIST HEGEMONY OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. THE UIL DEBATE WAS MORE MIXED, THOUGH THERE, TOO, CRITICISM WAS LEVELED AT THE COMMUNISTS. IN THE CGIL, THE COMMUNISTS WERE TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK WHILE THE SOCIALISTS TOOK THE LEAD IN REFUTING THE CHARGES. THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS MEET JOINTLY TODAY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE POLEMICS BETWEEN THE THREE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS COMPRISING THE CCU HAVE BEEN BOTH OVERSHADOWED AND EXACERBATED BY THE BLOODY KIDNAPPING OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN, ALDO MORO. LABOR'S IMMEDIATE, INSTINCTIVE REACTION TO THE EVENT (DESPITE THE DC'S REQUEST TO THE CISL TO DESIST) WAS THE PROCLAMATION OF A GENERAL STRIKE FROM 11:00 A.M. A.M MARCH 16 UNTIL MIDNIGHT. THE INSTINCTIVE REACTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY TO THE STRIKE CALL WAS TO SEEK TO TAKE IT OVER. WITHIN MINUTES OF THE CCU DECISION, LOUDSPEAKER-MOUNTED VEHICLES WERE CRUISING THE STREETS OF ROME ANNOUNCING THE INVITATION OF "THE PCI AND THE UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT" TO REPORT TO THE HUGE SQUARE BEFORE ST. JOHN LATERAN AT 5:30 P.M. THIS PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION AMONG CISL LEADERS IN PARTICULAR, WHICH MAY WELL BE REFLECTED IN THE MEETING TODAY (MARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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17) OF THE CCU SECRETARIAT 3.

3. THE STRIKE ITSELF APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ADHERED TO BY LARGE NUMBERS OF WORKERS. THE MANIFESTATIONS IN ROME AND ELSEWHERE PRODUCED HUGE TURNOUTS. IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN 2,000,000 PERSONS WERE PRESENT AT THE TELEVISED DEMONSTRATION IN ROME TO HEAR STRONG DENUNCIATIONS OF TERRORISM AND CALLS TO RALLY AROUND THE DEFENSE OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC BY THE THREE TOP LABOR LEADERS, MACARIO, BENVENUTO AND LAMA.

4. IN THE MEETING ON MARCH 14 OF THE UIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THERE WAS A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING MINORITY LEADER VANNI (PRI), TO SEEK TO DEFUSE THE QUARREL WITH THE CGIL. NEVERTHELESS, SECRETARY GENERAL BENVENUTO (PSI), AND PARTICULARLY NATIONAL SECRETARY LINO RAVECCA (PSDI), REPEATED SOME OF THE CHARGES AGAINST BOTH THE CGIL AND THE PCI OF SEEKING TO "TAKE POSSESSION OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT".

5. THE CISL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION ON MARCH 15 PRODUCED A CONTINUATION OF THE SHARP CRITICISMS OF THE CGIL,

LED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL CARNITI AND NATIONAL SECRETARY ERALDO CREA.THERE APPEARS,HOWEVER, TO HAVE BEEN A SHIFT OF EMPHASIS/ THE CLOSE IDENTITY BETWEEN CGIL AND PCI POLICIES WAS CRITICIZED SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE POLICIES THEMSELVES--IN PARTICULAR, THE "EXPLOITATION"BY THE CGIL OF THE CCU POLICY AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 15 TO CALL FOR MAJOR LABOR SACRIFICES WITHOUT HOLDING FAST TO THE QUID PRO QUO OF ELICITING THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE FULL EMPLOYMENT.

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6. IN THE CGIL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 15, THE COMMUNISTS, INCLUDING SECRETARY GENERAL LUMA, WERE CLEARLY DETERMINED TO ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES AND GIVE NO RISE TO DEEPENING THE RUPTURE. LAMA STATED: "I DO NOT WISH TO RESPOND TO THE STRONG ATTACK LEVELLED AT ME BY THE CISL AND THE UIL BECAUSE I DO NOT WISH TO COMMIT AGAINST THE OTHERS THE MISTAKE WHICH I FEEL HAS BEEN COMMITTED AGAINST ME, THAT IS, TO GO BEYOND THE FACTS TO CONDUCT A TRIAL AGAINST OUR INTENTIONS THROUGH POLITICAL POLEMICS". IT WAS LEFT TO THE CGIL SOCIALISTS, DEPUTY

SECRETARY GENERAL MARIANETTI AND NATIONAL SECRETARY
VERZELLI, TO DEFEND THE CGIL AGAINST THE CHARGE OF BEING
A VASSAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.
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7. COMMENT: THE POSITION TAKEN IN THE UIL BY EX-SECRETARY
GENERAL VANNI IS READILY EXPLAINED BY THE POLICY OF
HIS PRAISE OF CGIL INITIATIVES TO MODERATE LABOR'S DEMANDS
AND PRACTICES, AND WHO WAS ONE OF THE CHIEF SPONSOR'S
THE PCI'S ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNING MAJORITY.

8. THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE SOCIALISTS IN THE CGIL IN
DEFENDING THEIR COMMUNIST COLLEAGUES DOUBTLESS DERIVES
FROM THE FACT THAT THEY ARE FAR FROM IMMUNE TO IDENTICAL
CHARGES. ONE NEED ONLY RECALL THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF CGIL SOCIALISTS HELD TWO WEEKS AGO IN ROME (ROME'S
3996) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PREPARATIONS
FOR THE PSI NATIONAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH. IN
ANY EVENT, SOME SOCIALISTS FREQUENTLY CAST THEMSELVES IN
THE ROLE OF ARDENT DEFENDERS OF THE PCI.

9. THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE CGIL COMMUNISTS TO CAST OIL
ON THE WATERS IS SHOWN BY THE WAY IN WHICH THEY AVOIDED
PARTICIPATING IN A RECENT TV DEBATE ON THE CONTROVERSY.
WHEN CHANNEL I INVITED THE THREE TOP LABOR LEADERS TO THE
DEBATE, LAMA BEGGED OFF BECAUSE OF A CONFLICTING COMMITMENT.
WHEN HE SOUGHT TO SEND THE SOCIALIST MARIANETTI, THE TV
PROGRAMMERS INSISTED UPON A COMMUNIST PARTICIPANT. NATIONAL
CGIL SECRETARY BRUNO TRENTIN WAS THEREFORE NOMINATED TO
PARTICIPATE, BUT HE FAILED TO APPEAR AT THE STUDIO. THE
NEXT DAY HE, TOO, CLAIMED THAT AN INTERVENING COMMITMENT
HAD PREVENTED HIS PARTICIPATION.

10. THE CONTROVERSY HAS PRODUCED A RARE UNANIMITY WITHIN
CISL, AND NO ONE IS ENJOYING IT MORE THAN MINORITY LEADER
PAOLO SARTORI. HE IS NOW CALLING FOR CELEBRATIONS NEXT
JULY OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BREAK WITH THE CISL AND
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THE FORMATION OF THE CISL.

1. THE CURRENT INTER-CONFEDERAL BREACH IS HAVING A
SOBERING EFFECT ON MANY NON-COMMUNIST LEADERS, BUT IT IS
MOST UNLIKELY TO LEAD TO A RUPTURE IN THE CCU MECHANISM.
"LABOR UNITY" CONTINUES TO BE A CONCEPT TO WHICH EVEN

THE MOST DISPARATE ELEMENTS IN THE ITALIAN LBABOR MOVE-
MENT SUBSCRIBE.GARDNER

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